

news

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

BI-MONTHLY REPORT

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

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April 15, 1988

Hams Gearing Up For Worldwide Packet Radio!

Get your station ready for the most powerful and capable OSCAR satellite ever! Arianespace, the European Space Agency, announced that launch of AMSAT's Phase 3C spacecraft is now set for May 26th. A recent AMSAT bulletin indicated that this could slip to "early June." The actual launch date depends on the results of the V-22 launch scheduled for May 11. The Phase 3-C bird will become OSCAR-13 and is an improved version of OSCAR-10.

The amateur satellite will be launched by a powerful Ariane IV rocket from the ESA's Kourou Space Center in French Guyana on the northeast coast of South America. AMSAT's Phase 3-C will hitchhike along with two other payloads, a MeteorSat weather satellite and a Panamasat communications satellite.

Phase 3-C's elliptical orbit will vary from 22,000 miles at its highest point, down to a low of only 125 miles. A release for general amateur use is not expected until July in order to maneuver the spacecraft into the proper orbit.

The P3-C satellite has three transponders on board as well as the RUDAK digital packet communications experiment. AMSAT-NA advises the following revised Phase 3-C operating frequencies.

Mode "B": (50 W PEP)

Input: (Uplink) 435.420-435.570 MHz.

Output: (Downlink) 145.825-145.975 MHz.

General Beacon: 145.812 MHz (CW/RTTY)

Engineering Beacon: 145.985 MHz.

Mode "L": (Primary Transponder)

Input: (Uplink) 1269.620-1269.330 MHz.

Output: (Downlink) 435.715-436.005 MHz.

Gen. Beacon: 435.651 MHz (PSK/CW/RTTY)

Mode "JL": (Secondary Transponder)

Input: (Uplink) 144.425-144.475 MHz (50 kHz)

Output: (Downlink) 435.990-435.940 MHz.

Mode "S":

Input: (Uplink) 435.601-435.637 MHz.

Output: (Downlink) 2400-711-2400.747 MHz.

General Beacon: 2400.325 MHz.

RUDAK is a worldwide independent packet data channel using separate receive and transmit frequencies. (Mode "L" 50W PEP)

Input: (Uplink) 1269.70 MHz (2400 bits/sec DPSK)

Output: (Downlink) 435.677 MHz (400 bits/sec PSK)

The RUDAK packet message project is the brainchild of West Germany's **Hanspeter Kuhlen, DK1YQ**.

Three different AMSAT teams will handle the launch site activities. AMSAT

April 15, 1988

Team No. 1 from North America and West Germany arrived in Kourou, French Guyana, March 29 to begin final preparations for the launch of Phase 3C. The AMSAT-NA team headed up by its Chairman and Chief Engineer Jan King, W4GEY, and the DL team under Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, began work upon arrival at the European Space Agency in Kourou.

Initial tasks the team is performing include uncrating the spacecraft and support equipment. They will then apply thermal coatings and other materials needed for flight. This will take about two weeks.

Team No. 2 will deploy for Kourou next week for the critical spacecraft fueling operation. The AZ50 and nitrogen tetroxide fluids are hazardous and must be handled very carefully. Beginning in early May, a third team will go to Kourou for final preparations and spacecraft telemetry monitoring.

JOINT AMSAT/CAST SPACE PROJECT

AMSAT-NA has agreed in principle to join with Weber State College in Ogden, Utah, in the design and construction of a broad range of satellite and space related projects. The agreement follows two meetings between AMSAT and CAST (The Center for AeroSpace Technology) at Weber State.

In 1985, CAST built and launched the small NUSAT-1 GAS can (GetAway Special). NUSAT-1, (for Northern Utah Satellite No. 1) is a radar calibration satellite operated by students at Weber State. It was the only GAS can that actually achieved orbit after ejection from a shuttle spacecraft.

The cooperative effort between AMSAT and CAST will likely bridge many areas of technology and span several classes of spacecraft although specific agreements remain to be specified. CAST has resources including CAD/CAM, mechanical testing, fabrication, simulation and more.

AMSAT programs now underway include small packet radio satellites, Phase 3 class satellites and Phase 4 geosynchronous satellites. In addition, intense effort is now

under way in the Digital Signal Processing area for both space and earth segment applications.

The relationship between AMSAT and CAST would be a favorable one for both groups. With a unique position in small satellites, AMSAT can help develop expertise at CAST. Meanwhile, CAST has a notable student and faculty resource to commit to projects of mutual interest as well as a fine plant facility and equipment to implement these projects.

SOVIET LAUNCH OF AMSAT-BUILT PACSAT

AMSAT-NA officials recently met near Geneva, Switzerland, with United Nations and Soviet Space Research Institute representatives. Discussed was the possible launching of various packet amateur-built radio satellites from USSR vehicles and the Soviet Mir Space Station. Although obstacles still exist, all sides expressed cautious optimism that the objectives could be realized.

The initial project will be to launch a small packet radio "store-and-forward" satellite for the SatelliteLife group based in Boston within 18 months. Tentatively dubbed HEALTHSAT-1, the satellite would provide prototype electronic mail service for physicians working in remote areas where communications are difficult or non-existent.

Ideally, HEALTHSAT-1 would operate near, but not on Amateur spectrum if licensing on space research frequencies can be coordinated with international authorities. If this is not possible, then the satellite will be licensed under §Part 97 rules and operate on Amateur frequencies. In this case, the spacecraft would revert to one of the OSCAR series and be used by the general Amateur Radio Satellite community as well.

Under this scenario, it could also be used by SatelliteLife for limited scope "proof-of-concept" limited duration experiments by licensed Amateurs as has been customary in the past. The primary approach will be, however, to license the satellite under non-Amateur space research frequencies near the 2-meter and 70-cm (450-MHz) ham bands.

The satellite would be "manually deployed" (tossed out?) by a Cosmonaut from the orbiting Soviet Mir Space Station. Because of the low orbit of Mir, only an orbital lifetime of 6 months to one year is anticipated.

Mode "J" type operation is envisioned for HEALTHSAT-1 with attache case-sized portable units being the benchmark. A lap-top computer, micro TNC, 2-meter and 450-MHz handi talkies - plus a small turnstile antenna for two meters and a 5/8 whip for 450 will be all that is required to lash up with the orbiting mail service.

AMSAT Chairman Jan King, W3GEY, and AMSAT President Vern Riportella, WA3LQQ, attended the meeting which was held March 19 through 21 in Annecy, France, some 30 miles south of Geneva. A flawless PACSAT demonstration impressed the attendees which included representatives of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and the Geneva-based World Health Organization, International Telecommunication Union and League of Red Cross/Crescent Societies.

The equipment was provided by Tandy, Fort Worth (Model 1400 laptop PCs), Yaesu (HT's), and TASC0 (micro TNC's). A mid-1989 launch for HEALTHSAT-1 is planned. Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of Russian-developed and built amateur satellites being launched in the U.S.

PETITION TO CURB HAM "BROADCASTING"

Another petition has been filed with the Commission seeking to restrict time limits on broadcast bulletins. Extra Class amateur, Bentley F. Adams, Jr, K7LR, of Wheaton, Illinois" proposes to add the following definition to §Part 97.3:

"Information Bulletin A brief one-way transmission of timely news or announcements, considered to be of outstanding importance or current interest."

Adams argues that "In recent months, a number of one-way broadcasts have materialized on various amateur frequencies that

clearly violate the letter and intent of the Commission's Rules and Regulations; some, if not all, of the amateur operators involved appear to have connection with and/or the support of commercial broadcast interests. The self-described 'programming' can be lengthy - up to 45 minutes, 5 times per day and simulcast on several frequencies."

"A significant percentage of a typical 'program' often consists of rambling interviews, editorials, the reading of listener's letters, recitation of signal reports received, organizational membership solicitations and diatribes against opponents. To date, little of the content of these activities has been timely, and in no way falls within the definition of 'bulletin' as set forth in the latest edition of Webster's Third New World Dictionary."

"It is the expressed intent of certain of these parties to promote the geometric proliferation of their broadcasts through the formation of foundations, solicitation of donations and various financial arrangements between the suppliers of programming and those doing the broadcasting. One broadcaster has even announced, on the air, his intention to continually break new ground and set precedent after precedent in the face of FCC inaction in the area."

"Broadcasting in any form is prohibited. 97.113(d)(2) provides for an exclusion from the Commission's definition of broadcasting; the very use by certain parties of the terms 'broadcasting' and 'programming' to describe their activities and product is an actual admission of violation of 97.113(a) and 97.113(b) and (c), respectively."

"Apathy on this issue seems rampant, and thousands of newly licensed amateurs, as well as old timers, are beginning to accept this type of activity as legal, as no enforcement is happening. Amateur Radio is an ideal medium for bona-fide bulletins; 97.113(d)(2) is a perfectly comprehensive exclusion needing no further refinement as long as its terms are defined, and the rule is enforced. If this is not done, the amateur bands may soon resemble the short and medium wave broadcast bands, lacking only music."

April 15, 1988

We tried to reach Bentley Adams/K7LR to obtain more information about his petition - but he has no telephone listed at his Wheaton, Illinois, call book address.

R.A.I.N. FOUNDATION FORMED IN ILLINOIS

Both the Adams petition (and the James Fisher/K4GF petition that was rejected by the FCC on April 1st) seems, however, directly aimed at the newly formed RAIN Foundation. RAIN, an acronym for the Radio Amateurs Information Network, is in the process of being chartered in Illinois as an tax exempt 501-3C educational corporation. RAIN's first year's budget is \$41,500 which will come from corporate sponsorship and private donations.

Hap Holly/KC9RP, a blind amateur, will become RAIN's only full-time salaried employee - serving as Executive Director at the pleasure of a Board of Directors. One of Holly's responsibilities will be fund raising and he reports a very positive reaction from the amateur radio industry. Their charter is patterned very closely to that of the ARRL.

The main goal of the RAIN Foundation is to act as an umbrella organization over all amateur radio informational programming. According to Hap Holly, RAIN will financially assist existing amateur radio broadcast services such as Westlink, Eastlink, BEAR Information Services, RP Report, IARN and others by providing telephone expense subsidies. (\$6,000 of the first year's budget is to help subsidize the Westlink Radio Service.)

RAIN also intends to establish strategically located bulletin stations in various parts of the country and to provide additional in-depth/timely informational programming. The programming will be made available free of charge except for mailing and cassette costs.

Such well known amateurs as Carole Perry/WB2MGP, Glenn Baxter/K1MAN, Leo Meyerson/W0GFQ and others - serve on their Board of Directors. Roy Neal/K6DUE has elected not to serve as Director. We understand that the RAIN Foundation will make a presentation at the April 28th Dayton Ham-Vention amateur radio industry meeting.

HAMVENTION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

On April 5th, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association announced its 1988 Ham-Vention Award winners:

RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR:

is the late William H. Bennett/W7PHO of Seattle, Washington. Bill started the W7PHO Family Hour - one of the better known DX nets. He is credited with starting the Western Washington DX Club and influencing the ARRL to establish an outgoing QSL Bureau. Bill died just before Christmas and his XYL, Ruth, will accept the award. There were many recommendations that he be recognized for his many contributions to amateur radio.

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

goes to Lew McCoy/W1ICP, Silver City, New Mexico, for his many years of amateur radio technical writing, experimentation and lecturing. He is well known for the development of the ultimate transmatch, low cost, simple SWR meters ...and his work in the reduction of television interference.. Lew was Senior Technical Editor at the ARRL for 28 years. He has attended every Dayton Ham-Vention since its beginning thirty-four years ago in the old downtown Biltmore Hotel. McCoy is now Technical Editor of CQ Magazine.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

goes to Fred Hammond, VE3HC, of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, in recognition of his work in getting amateurs from mainland China on the air. He helped start, and continues to support, DX stations in Jamaica. His Antique Radio Museum is well known. Fred will be attending his 28th consecutive HamVention.

The 1988 HamVention award winners will receive their awards at the (April 30) Saturday night banquet to be held at the Dayton Convention Center adjacent to Stouffer's hotel. The banquet speaker will be none other than WB6NOA, Gordon West, the nation's foremost ham radio educator and good will ambassador. Gordo will present a unique visual laser show that will graphically show how different radio waves are propagated from the ionosphere.

I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and
 would you like to become a volunteer examiner?
 under The "NYI" report... If so, please send a
 of this... This... and a...

April 15, 1988

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of April, 1988.

| Radio District: | Gp."A" Extra | Gp."B" Adv. Tech/Gen. | Gp."C" Novice | Gp."D" Novice |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 0 | WG0L | KE0UK | N0JCX | KB0CFX |
| 1 | NQ1N | KC1IY | N1FPV | KA1RUS |
| 2 | WF2H | KE2FT | N2IBH | KB2FKF |
| 3 | NO3C | KD3HM | N3GCM | KA3SWX |
| 4 (*) | AB4HM | KK4ZW | N4SMH | KC4EKF |
| 5 (*) | AA5FH | KG5IW | N5MJA | KB5FUB |
| 6 (*) | AA6HS | KJ6FF | N6RUN | KB6WSG |
| 7 | WM7M | KF7IV | N7KUR | KB7EKE |
| 8 | WD8X | KE8QZ | N8JJE | KB8EJW |
| 9 | NY9H | KE9JZ | N9HJN | KB9ALH |
| N.Mariana I. | AH0E | AH0AD | KH0AJ | WH0AAH |
| Guam | KH2I | AH2BY | KH2DG | WH2ALL |
| Johnston Is. | AH3A | AH3AC | KH3AB | WH3AAC |
| Midway Is. | | AH4AA | KH4AD | WH4AAF |
| Palmyra/Jarvis | AH5A | | | |
| Hawaii | (**) | AH6IY | NH6OW | WH6BXK |
| Kure Island | | | KH7AA | |
| Amer. Samoa | AH8C | AH8AD | KH8AF | WH8AAW |
| Wake Wilkes Peale | | AH9AD | KH9AD | WH9AAH |
| Alaska | (**) | AL7JS | NL7NE | WL7BQY |
| Virgin Is. | KP2Y | KP2BN | NP2CM | WP2AFZ |
| Puerto Rico | (**) | KP4OW | WP4NV | WP4HWT |

NOTES: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th and 6th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs. ** = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Only one Group "A" call sign left in the Virgin Islands! Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs are assigned Extra Class when Group "A" run out. [Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

NEWS FROM THE GLOBETROTTING COLVINS

We received the following note (mailed on March 30 from Jakarta, Indonesia) from, Lloyd (W6KG) & Iris (W6QL) Colvin - the YASME DX-kateers.

"We have been trying to stay in California until October and travel in various countries of the world from October to April. This last 6 months, we were in Mexico (XE2GKG), Nepal (9N5QL), Bangladesh,

Bhutan, Burma, Sri Lanka (W6KG/4S7), and Indonesia (YB0AQL). We stayed for several weeks in each of these countries, and operated ham radio in each that would permit it."

"We tried everything that we could think of to obtain licenses in Bangladesh (S2), Bhutan (A5), and Burma (XZ). We were unable to obtain licenses in these three countries. We did our best to leave these countries with a favorable impression of ourselves and amateur radio. The best thing that we can report is that all three countries did not come right out and refuse us licenses. They all said that maybe, at some future date, they would comply with our request. We will try to keep after them and perhaps we can return some day and operate."

"Our most recent operation was from Indonesia, as YB0AQL. We were astonished to discover that Indonesia is the fifth largest country in the world, and that the capital city, Jakarta, has a population of nearly eight million people!"

"We stayed at the QTH of "Wan", YB0SY. He is the leading DXer and has large mono-band beams for all bands. We used his antennas but our own equipment. As YB0AQL we made nearly 8,000 QSO's including radio amateurs in 133 countries. These figures include our participation in the CQ WW WPX Contest in March 1988."

"We are on the programs in April '88 at the Dayton HamVention in Ohio and the Joint Meeting in Visalia, CA, of the Northern and Southern DX Clubs. We hope to meet all of you in person. 88, Lloyd/Iris, W6KG/W6QL"

● Thomas Hamilton, M.D. (Trenton, TN - KA4P) sent us a copy of an article that was in the March 15th issue of "Family Practice News" reporting the Milham study on increased cancer risk to ham radio operators.

● Kenwood has a new **TM 721-A FM Dual Band Transceiver** - operates both on 2-meters and 70-cm (440-450 MHz) with all the "bells & whistles". 45 Watts out on 2-meters, 35W on 70-cm. You can even listen to both bands simultaneously! Lists for \$649.95.

CQ MAGAZINE TO PUBLISH BUYER'S GUIDE

A new, fully illustrated ham radio gear directory is due to hit the newstands. The Amateur Radio Buyer's Guide will premiere in the fall of 1988. Compiled and edited by Pete O'Dell/WB2D, the directory will consist of full write-ups of all amateur radio equipment on the market, divided into appropriate product categories. O'Dell, a thoroughly experienced writer and editor, used to be in charge of the ARRL's Public Information Office.

Included in the directory will be complete specifications, features, suggested list prices, photographs of all major ham gear and related products. Additionally, information about dealers and brands sold will be listed. There is no charge to manufacturers, importers or dealers to have their products and firm listed. Special "fill-in-the-blank" listing forms are available from O'Dell. (Tel.: 516-681-2922)

All product material must be in Pete's hands by May 10th in order to be included in the premiere issue.

"YOUNG-HAM-OF-THE-YEAR" AWARD

Additional prizes have been added for the 1988 Young-Ham-of-the-Year. West Radio School will donate a complete set of amateur radio training materials to the recipients school. Larry Ledlow/NA5E, "73 Magazine's" Editor-in-Chief is donating a multi-year subscription. There are many other gifts.

The Young Ham of the Year Award was conceived in 1986 by Westlink editor, Bill Pasternak/WA6ITF as a way of honoring the younger members of the nation's amateur radio community for their contributions to the service, their community and/or nation. Major corporate sponsorship is provided by Yaesu USA. Yaesu picks up the trip expenses to the award banquet and provides the major prize.

Previous recipients of the award include Shawn Alan Wakefield/WK5P of Bartlesville, OK and David Rosenman/KA5PMK of Muncie, IN. The nomination period closes on June 30, 1988. Presentation will be made at the 1988 ARRL Southwest Division Convention in Anaheim, CA, September 2-4.

Any FCC licensed U.S. amateur 18 years of age or younger is eligible. All nominating letters must contain verifiable background material. Nominations go to: Young Ham of the Year Award; 28221 Stanley Ct., Canyon Country, CA 91351.

POSTAGE RATES (AND QSL'ING) INCREASE

As expected the following postage rate increases are effective April 3rd.

DOMESTIC RATES: (First-Class)

Letter Mail: 25¢ - (up to 1-oz.)
20¢ - (each addit. ounce.)
QSL Post Cards: 15¢ each

INTERNATIONAL RATES:

Letter Mail - Surface

| Not Over: | Canada* | Mexico* | All Others: |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------------|
| 1-ounce | 30¢ | 25¢ | 40¢ |
| 2-ounces | 52¢ | 45¢ | 63¢ |

Letter Mail - Air

(*Canada/Mexico, Air rates same as surface.)
All other countries: 45¢ (1/2-ounce)
90¢ (1-ounce)
\$1.35 (1 1/2-ounces)
\$1.80 (2-ounces)

QSL Post Cards: Canada* 21¢ each
Mexico* 15¢ each
All other countries/Surface 28¢ each
All other countries/Air 36¢ each

Due to the value of the U.S. dollar exchange rates in Canada, postage to Canada is no longer the same as domestic rates. It now costs more to mail to Canada than it does to Mexico.

You can anticipate that you will be paying more for most magazine subscriptions since Second Class rates were also substantially increased. The only U.S.P.S. rate that was not increased was "Priority Mail" - which is zone rated First Class mail weighing more than 11-ounces. The USPS kept Priority Mail the same in order to be competitive with UPS package delivery! By law, the U.S. Postal Service has a monopoly on all other mail so USPS didn't have to be concerned with competition which has the side effect of keeping prices lower and companies more efficient and productive.

April 15, 1988

Postage is one of our largest expenses and effective May 1, 1988, we are increasing our subscription rates by \$2.00 a year. This is our first increase since 1984. We did not further raise our rates to Canada.

Until May 1, 1988, you may extend your present subscription for as many years as you like at the old rates:

U.S., Canada, Mexico

| | Old Rate | New Rate |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| 1 Year (24 Issues) | \$21.00 | \$23.00 |
| 2 Years (48 Issues) | \$39.00 | \$42.00 |
| 3 Years (72 Issues) | \$56.00 | \$59.00 |
| 5 Years (129 Issues) | \$89.00 | |

Foreign Subscriptions

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| 1 Year (24 Issues) | \$34.00 | \$37.00 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|

MAIL ORDER HOUSE PUSHING HAM GEAR

Many amateurs have brought to our attention that an amateur HT is being marketed to the public as an "implied no license needed CB radio" by Northern Hydraulics, Inc. (P.O. Box 1499, Burnsville, MN 55337-0499).

This firm is offering a 440-449 MHz (amateur radio) "Eagle" handie talkie at \$167.99 ("Sale Prices Good until 7/19/88" List Price: \$244.95) Apparently the firm has just mailed their Sale Catalog No. 46. No where in the catalog does it say the transceiver is a ham radio ...nor is the catalog mailed to an amateur radio mailing list.

They have a toll free number (1-800-533-5545) and many amateurs have informed this outfit that their sale of this radio promotes illegal use. They don't seem to care and are ignoring complaints.

The ad suggests business use of the hand-held transceiver... "A real time and work saver for surveying, construction, highway and field work coordinating," they say. No where in the ad does it say that a license is needed. It mentions that the unit is "FCC Approved."

The fact that a portion of the 70-cm band is not allocated to amateur radio in the U.S. (above the mystical "Line A") does not protect Northern Hydraulics. Only the 420-430

MHz portion above Line "A" (which goes through Duluth, Minnesota) can be used for commercial interests. We doubt that Northern Hydraulics even knows what "Line A" is. See §Part 97.3(i) and §97.7(g)(6).

GREAT AMERICAN RACE EVENT STATION

Dick Raley, KX6B, of San Jose, California, will operate mobile as part of the support team of Car No. 73 in the running of the 6th annual Great American Car Race. The June 20 to July 4 antique car race from California's Disneyland to Boston commemorates the 80th anniversary of the running of the original New York to Paris Great Race.

The cars (of which some 120 have entered thus far) must be at least 50 years old and pay a \$5,000 entry fee! David (WB6JUI driver, Redlands, California) and wife, Laura (navigator) Northrop will be driving their 1930 Deluxe Model A valued at \$30,000. Dave rebuilt the car from original parts (three bodies) obtained from a Colorado farmer. They were scattered in a field.

Race winners are determined by coming the closest to daily check point arrival time targets. Drivers are given route instructions only a half an hour before each days race. There are twelve daily prizes plus a grand prize of \$100,000. (Total purse exceeds \$250,000.) It is expected that the race will be reported by network TV.

Amateur radio operation is planned daily between 1500 UTC and 2300 UTC, on the lower 25 kHz of the 40, 20 and 15 meter General phone bands and in the 10 meter Nov-ice phone band. Some 75 meter evening operation, mobile packet on 145.01 and 2-meter FM on area repeaters is also planned. A special "Great American Race" QSL will be available from: Dick Raley, KX6B (2610 Camloop Drive, San Jose, CA 95130)

Effective last month, ICOM America, Inc. has a new National Sales Manager for their Amateur Radio Products division. He is Jim Newcomb. No call sign was given in the press release and it is not known if he is a licensed amateur. The position is newly created.

interest in nor am an employee of any company or entity engaged in making, preparing or distributing amateur radio equipment or license preparation materials. My age is at least 18 years old."

to: W5YI-VFC, P.O. Box #10101, Dallas, Texas 75207. A certificate (optional) is also available for \$1.00. Details and accreditation materials will be sent to you within a two week period.

The National Association of Computer Dealers (NACD) has installed a data base of serial numbers of stolen personal computers. This list can be checked by any company or person buying a computer. Public access to the system via toll free: 1-800-346-NACD.

● Commodore is moving into the higher end PC business by debuting 286 and 386 chip machines. They are trying to alter their image as a "toy company." Introduction anticipated at the May 9-13 Comdex computer show.

● Look for prices of personal computers to fall. Wall Street Journal reports that "growth in demand will moderate" and "...manufacturing capacity will increase enough to meet demand." IBM is talking of pricing their products more aggressively and other firms would be forced to follow. A "shakeout" of some clone makers could be imminent.

● Clones of IBM's latest line of personal computers will reach the market this year, but who will be first to test the water? Tandy (and others) reportedly are readying PS/2 clones. IBM could sue for patent infringement.

● The Soviet Union has resumed bombing the U.S. Embassy in Moscow with low-intensity microwave signals in the 5-11 GHz range. Speculation has it that the beams are used in connection with Soviet eavesdropping devices planted in the embassy or to modify behavior of U.S. embassy personnel.

● Nachman Brach, president of (Brooklyn, NY) Granada Electronics has been convicted of importing illegal CB radios and amplifiers, and sentenced to five years probation, fined \$5,000 and ordered to perform 300 hours of community service. The CB radios operated outside the Citizens Band Radio Service.

● FCC has released a Notice of Inquiry seeking information on the best way to implement the new 1605-1705 AM broadcasting band authorized by WARC-79. The Commission also wants to send a clear signal to AM receiver manufacturers that it intends to move expeditiously on the matter. One of the approaches the FCC is considering is licensing a single frequency on a nationwide basis.

● ABC, the Audit Bureau of Circulations, is now beginning to audit subscribers to electronic publications. Obtaining circulation information has been a major stumbling block for computer-delivered publications to obtain advertising. ABC will obtain subscriber information electronically via computer.

● Regency Electronics has sold its consumer products division to rival Uniden Corporation for \$12 million. Regency plans to use part of the proceeds to fund startup costs of "Budgetel", a franchised low-priced alternative to cellular telephone service.

● United Airlines is experimenting with "magnetic striped tickets". The alpha-numeric encoded ticket is similar to the magnetic stripe found on credit cards. The tickets, entered into the airlines computerized reservations system at the gate, not only obtain instant information on the status of all airline passengers but also eliminated is the need to reconcile tickets collected with those sold.

● The FCC has proposed to allocate 849-851 MHz (uplink) 894-896 MHz (downlink) for an air-to-ground consumer telephone service interconnected to the regular telephone network. Airfone, Inc., has been operating experimentally for some time and has proved quite popular. The FCC wants to authorize two competing systems. Since airline flights pass over many states, the FCC proposes to eliminate state regulation of rates. The FCC expressed concern about possible interference to adjacent cellular telephone channels.

● The popular French Minitel computerized information network is being tied into the Houston-based U.S. Videotel system. France Telecom, an arm of the French government, wants to investigate the possibility of joint ventures in North America. The French system with some four million users was initially distributed free to replace telephone directories. It now provides many data services including entertainment listings, home shopping, conversation and dating lines.

● Sears Roebuck/IBM's joint videotex venture has been named "Prodigy" and will begin offering news, information and home shopping at \$9.95 per month later this year.

W5YI-VEC
F Box 101
a feed 1-pr 1-stu 1-ma 1-is? 1-have 1-m!
HOLDING AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CLASSES?
Test Manual: 1 Ea. 5-9 13.50
14.00 13.00
4.00 4.00
10 or more Quantity
10 or more Quantity

continue to let this valuable portion of the spectrum lay fallow while awaiting, at best, the slow development of a highly marginal Amateur Radio use in light of the spectrum already allocated to the Amateur community and the fact that 222-225 would be allotted to the Amateur Service on a permanent basis."

Probably the most vocal and excited industrial commenter is LAOAD Radio and Microwave Communications Consultants of Lockport, Illinois, Robert M. Snyder, W9GT president. LAOAD is actually Bob's Norwegian ham call. He lived there for five years and was the European winner of several DX contests and holder of the first ever European five-band WAS. He also obtained five-band DXCC while living in Norway.

We talked to Bob this past weekend and asked him why he uses his Norwegian ham call for the name of his land mobile consulting company. Bob said he simply wanted to come up with a company name that no one else was using. "I started the company on a shoestring and it costs about \$500 to research a company name. I knew that no one could possibly be using LAOAD! LAOAD doesn't really mean anything to anyone, but neither does the letters in EXXON."

Snyder, who has been trying for years to obtain 220-MHz spectrum for commercial land mobile applications (in his formal comments) called the UPS interest in 220 a "breakthrough of epic proportions" and a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." LAOAS comments on the UPS proposal:

"As good as today's ACSB equipment is, it has been developed by only two small

Amidst the overwhelming numbers of amateur filings protesting the late appearance of United Parcel Service on the 220-MHz scene, several new pleadings from industrial interests have arrived at the FCC commenting on the UPS filing. UPS desires to place Amplitude Compandored Sideband (ACSB) radios in the 220 band for data communications with its trucks.

ACSB heretofore has been used mostly for voice transmissions with 5-kHz bandwidth, in certain limited VHF business-band channels in-between existing FM operations.

Aerotron, Inc., competitor to SEA in the manufacture of ACSB mobile radios (and owner of the trademark on the term "ACSB"), makes a strong statement favoring UPS and the reallocation of 220-222 to commercial use:

"The record in this proceeding shows that the 220-222 MHz band, now temporarily allotted to the Amateur Radio Service is underutilized. When weighed against the need to make spectrum available for the kind of innovative service proposed by UPS, it would be a disservice to the general public to

companies with limited technical, financial and personnel resources. Imagine what innovations may lie in store when billion dollar companies, with the added incentive of competition thrown in turn loose their engineering staffs on this technology, knowing that at last a mass market for the product will exist! Think of it, every wideband FM radio now in existence will be a candidate for replacement with a narrowband unit, once this process is set in motion."

LAOAD said that its enthusiasm over what it called the "sudden appearance" of UPS is tempered by UPS' repeated reference to the proposed reallocation of 220-222 MHz without mentioning alternative choices. "We would prefer to see the already-occupied Amateur band left intact and the new allocation carved out of the blocks of practically virgin spectrum at either 216-220 MHz ...or somewhere in the 225-235 MHz range." According to Snyder, the latter spectrum "is allocated to the government and is not being used for anything."

In a 1985 petition (assigned RM-4983) Snyder asked that 216-220 MHz be reallocated to land mobile interests. Snyder said, however, that he would go along with the 220-222 MHz proposal if the Commission would not consider other nearby spectrum.

LAOAD told the FCC, "We feel that UPS has glossed over the importance of the situation and attempted to belittle the impact on the Amateurs of the loss of 220-222 MHz ... (A)nyone who has the idea that the Amateurs are not really using 220-222 MHz in the first place should visit the Commission's offices and ask to see the file on Docket 87-14 which contained something like 16 (now 23) three-inch thick volumes of filings from irate amateurs the last time we looked."

"The main point we want to make here is that we believe that adequate alternative 220-MHz spectrum can be found which would make it a moot point and obviate any necessity for displacement of the Amateurs."

The American Trucking Association (ATA) filed comments supporting UPS' bid for spectrum. "ATA is well aware of UPS'

requirements. Because of its size and extensive operations, UPS requires a nationwide frequency, but ATA has been unable to coordinate a nationwide frequency for UPS, even a narrow band frequency, because of the need to protect other assignments."

"ATA believes that only an exclusive pool of narrowband frequencies, such as UPS proposes in its comments would permit making a nationwide frequency available for UPS and other similarly situated motor carriers. Furthermore the assignment of several of the larger motor carriers to new narrow band channels which are presently unassigned, may free up VHF and UHF frequencies for assignment to others."

FCC DENIES REPLY COMMENT EXTENSION

In a related move, the FCC has denied a request by Arthur Reis, K9XI (and author of a 200-MHz ham newsletter) to extend the time for replies on the Docket 87-14 late comments filed by UPS. Reis argued that additional time is needed to alert amateurs to the UPS comments, and that he is aware of new technology which may solve the problems of ACSB operations in the existing land mobile bands.

The Commission said that the 15-day reply period "should have provided ample time to reply to the single comment filed by UPS." The FCC called Reis' arguments "vague" and "not responsive" to the UPS comments.

FCC COMMENTS ON 87-14 ACTION TIMING

Julius Knapp is an FCC staffer in the Office of Engineering and Technology which is currently considering the 220-MHz NPRM. I asked him (on April 8th) where we stood on resolving the matter. While the original work schedule called for the proceeding to go on the Commissioner's meeting agenda about March 31st, Knapp said that was only a rough date.

"It has now been retargeted for action within the next couple of months ...but even that is very flexible. I don't see anything happening on 87-14 for several weeks," he said. "It will be June at the very earliest."